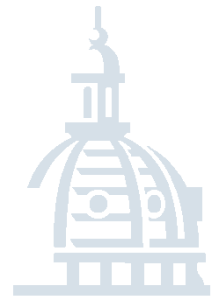


Fiscal Note

Fiscal Services Division



HF 471 – Election Precincts, Consolidation (LSB2139HV)

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Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

[House File 471](#) relates to election precinct boundaries and consolidations.

Background

Under current law, precincts established following a federal decennial census are not allowed to be changed unless otherwise provided by law. A county auditor may recommend, and the board of supervisors may approve, changes to county precincts. In addition, county commissioners are, in certain elections, allowed to consolidate two or more precincts into one precinct and to permanently divide precincts. The Bill permits consolidation in all elections. According to the Secretary of State's Office, there are currently 1,681 precincts in Iowa.

Assumptions

- Counties using precinct consolidation may reduce costs by reducing the number of precinct election officials, equipment needed for elections, and facility rental expenses. Any savings are assumed to be annual due to primary and general elections being held in different fiscal years.
- The impact of precinct consolidation would be determined on a yearly basis and would depend on many factors, including population growth and redistricting.
- One precinct worker earns approximately \$140 (\$8 per hour working a 16-hour day, plus \$12 for mileage). Eliminating four precinct officials may result in approximately \$560 in savings per consolidated precinct.
- Polling place costs average approximately \$75, including rent and equipment delivery costs.
- Each precinct consolidation may result in one-time equipment savings of up to \$7,850 that would include the elimination of one tabulator (vote counting machine), one ADA device (ballot marking machine), and one e-poll book set. Depending on the frequency of equipment purchases, this savings may not be immediately realized.
- Consolidating precincts may provide an annual savings on hardware maintenance agreements. Each precinct annually budgets approximately \$1,570 for hardware maintenance.

Fiscal Impact

House File 471 will have no costs or savings to the State. Any savings from the Bill would be realized on a county-by-county basis and would include both one-time and ongoing savings, depending on the number of precincts that choose to consolidate. **Table 1** below shows potential savings to counties from consolidation.

Table 1 – Potential Cost Savings from Precinct Consolidations

Number of Precinct Consolidations	1	50	100	150
Precinct Worker Wage Savings	\$ 560	\$ 28,000	\$ 56,000	\$ 84,000
Polling Place Cost Savings	75	3,750	7,500	11,250
Hardware Maintenance Savings	1,570	78,500	157,000	235,500
Total Annual Savings	<u>\$ 2,205</u>	<u>\$110,250</u>	<u>\$220,500</u>	<u>\$ 330,750</u>
One-time Equipment Savings	<u>\$ 7,850</u>	<u>\$392,500</u>	<u>\$785,000</u>	<u>\$1,177,500</u>

Sources

Secretary of State's Office
Iowa County Auditors Association

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

March 28, 2017

The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.
